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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: TANAKA, Hisakazu et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

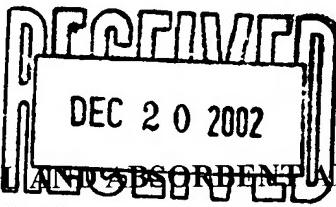
Serial No.: 10/088,107

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: March 22, 2002

\*P9986-0726-020307

For. WATER ABSORBENT MATERIAL AND ABSORBENT ARTICLE USING SAME



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 18, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached along with a European Search Report and date stamped Communication transmitting the European Search Report showing that each item was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office and that the communication was not received by any person defined in §1.56 (c) more than 30 days before filing this paper.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



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SGA/arf

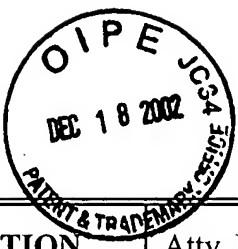
Atty. Docket No. **020307**  
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



**23850**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449; European Search Report;  
Date Stamped Communication transmittal  
and reference (1)



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 020307	Serial No. 10/088,107
	Applicant(s): TANAKA, Hisakazu et al.	
	Filing Date: March 22, 2002	Group Art Unit: Unassinged

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,756,447	Hall	5/26/98		
_____	AB					
_____	AC					
_____	AD					
_____	AE					

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF			
_____	AG			
_____	AH			
_____	AI			
_____	AJ			

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	
_____	AL	
Examiner	Date Considered	